



California Teachers Empowerment Network

Standing out from the crowd, fully informed on the issues

April 22, 2008

Dear Colleague,

“I heard the commercial on the radio and checked out the website...It's great!” - was one of many positive comments we received after our ads ran on KTKZ in the Sacramento area. Thanks to all of you who heard them and took the time to respond. Apparently we informed many about things that they weren't getting from other sources.

In a similar vein, there is more interesting legislation, AB 1322, that both the CTA and CFT are supporting. To learn more about this bill, which deals with the rights of Communists in a school setting, please go to http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_1301-1350/sb_1322_cfa_20080401_111129_sen_comm.html . In fact, there is a place on the CTA website which outlines the CTAs stance on various bills. Since they spend vast amounts of your dues trying to affect legislation, we suggest you visit this site – http://www.cta.org/NR/rdonlyres/92273838-1FFB-4FE1-82DD-5BCED9C9517F/0/Legislative_Bills_CTA_Positions_Jan2008.pdf - on a regular basis and let them know your thoughts. The CFT site has an overview of their 2007 legislative efforts. To see this go to <http://www.cft.org/resources/leg/pdfs/07legreport.pdf>

And speaking of dues – according to Mike Antonucci, several NEA state affiliates are raising dues. Fortunately California is not one of those states, but of course this can change at any time. To read more please go to <http://www.eiaonline.com/archives/20080407.htm> and see item 3.

We have found a website that will be of great interest to many of you. *DonorsChoose.org* is attempting to improve public education by engaging citizens in an online marketplace where teachers describe and individuals can fund specific student projects. We greatly encourage you visit their website - <http://www.donorschoose.org/homepage/main.html>

Another group worth checking out is *Democrats for Education Reform*. Unlike many other groups involved with education reform, their political leanings are secondary to their desire for real education reform. Please visit them at <http://www.dfer.org/about/> .

Also, because of the success of our ad campaign, we have many teachers who have just signed up with us. As such, we are going to ask the four questions that we asked in earlier newsletters. If you have answered them before, there is no need to do it a second time. If you haven't answered them, please do so as your feedback is very helpful to us.

Please indicate how you would like CTEN to address your interests/ concerns by replying to this email, answering "yes" or "no" to the following statements:

1. I am interested in the general information currently provided on the CTEN email list and website. [Yes/No] If this is the only question to which you answer, "Yes," you will simply remain on the CTEN email list. In any case, your email address will be kept confidential unless we have your permission to share it.
2. I would like email updates on local information. (Your email address will be shared with local CTEN leaders if you answer, "Yes.") [Yes/No] If you say, "Yes," please give us the district where you teach so you can be placed on a local leadership email list.
3. For purposes of feeling connected to and communicating with other like-minded teachers in my local area, I would like local CTEN leaders to share my email address with others who wish the same. [Yes/No] Please let us know the district where you teach to help us with your general location.
4. I would consider volunteering to fill a CTEN role or participate in a local or online CTEN project. (If you answer, "Yes," you will receive a future email detailing some of the ways CTEN could benefit from your help.) [Yes/No]

For more information about CTEN, please visit our website – www.ctenhome.org .
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Larry Sand, President